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U.S. Department of Education

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Sex Discrimination: Overview of the Law

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) prohibits discrimination based on sex in education programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance. Title IX states “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance[.]” All federal agencies that provide grants of financial assistance are required to enforce Title IX’s nondiscrimination mandate. The U.S. Department of Education (Department) gives grants of financial assistance to schools and colleges and to certain other entities, including vocational rehabilitation programs and libraries.

Examples of the types of discrimination that are covered under Title IX include but are not limited to: sex-based harassment; sexual violence; pregnancy discrimination; the failure to provide equal athletic opportunity; sex-based discrimination in a school's science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) courses and programs; discriminatory application of dress code policies and/or enforcement; and retaliation.

2024 AMENDMENTS TO TITLE IX REGULATIONS

In April 2024, the Department issued a Final Rule amending the Department's regulations implementing Title IX. The [April 2024 final regulations](#) promote educational equity and opportunity for students across the country by strengthening and clarifying protections that address all forms of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment and sexual violence. The April 2024 final regulations advance Title IX's promise of ensuring that no person experiences sex discrimination, as well as

accountability and fairness, while empowering and supporting students and families. The final regulations restore and strengthen vital protections for students, and provide schools with information to meet their Title IX obligations while offering appropriate discretion and flexibility to account for variations in school size, student populations, and administrative structures. The final regulations also promote accountability by requiring schools to take prompt and effective action when notified of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination in their education programs or activities. The final regulations also reaffirm the Department's core commitment to fundamental fairness for all parties, the rights of parents and guardians to support their minor children, and respect for complainants' autonomy. The April 2024 Title IX regulation, which is codified in the Code of Federal Regulations at 34 CFR Part 106, is enforced by the Department's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and is effective on August 1, 2024.

As of September 13, 2024, pursuant to Federal court orders, the Department is currently enjoined from enforcing the 2024 [Final Rule](#) in the states of Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming; the Department is also currently enjoined from enforcing the 2024 Final Rule at the schools on the list located <https://ed.gov/sites/ed/files/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/list-of-schools-enjoined-from-2024-t9-rule.pdf>. Per Court order, this list of schools may be supplemented in the future. The Final Rule and these resources do not currently apply in those states and schools. Pending further court orders, the Department's Title IX Regulations, as amended in 2020 ([2020 Title IX Final Rule](#)) remain in effect in those states and schools.

Additional information about the April 2024 Final Regulations:

- The Federal Register [official publication](#) of the Final Rule (April 29, 2024) [PDF](#) (4.0M)
 - Unofficial version of the Department's 2024 Title IX Final Rule [PDF](#) (4.4M)
 - Read the [Press Release](#)
 - Fact Sheet [PDF](#) (197K)
 - Brief Overview of Key Provisions of the Department of Education's 2024 Title IX Final Rule [PDF](#) (327K)

- Technical Assistance
 - 2024 Title IX Regulations: Impact on Title IX Coordinator Duties [PDF](#) (9.5M)
 - 2024 Title IX Regulations: Nondiscrimination Based on Pregnancy or Related Conditions & Parental, Family, or Marital Status [PDF](#) (5.0M)
 - 2024 Title IX Regulations: Pointers for Implementation [PDF](#) (197K)
 - 2024 Title IX Regulations: Resource for Drafting Nondiscrimination Policies, Notices of Nondiscrimination, and Grievance Procedures [PDF](#) (322K) [and Accompanying Video \(Length: 00:02:49\)](#)
 - 2024 Title IX Regulations: Small Entity Compliance Guide [PDF](#) (179K)

In April 2023, the U.S. Department of Education released a separate Notice of Proposed Rulemaking related to athletics that aims to advance Title IX's longstanding goal of ensuring equal opportunity in athletics and would provide much needed clarity for students, parents, coaches, and schools. This NPRM was published in the Federal Register on April 13, 2023, and is available [here](#). The Department received over 150,000 public comments and is in the process of carefully reviewing and considering all comments received during the comment period. Those comments are available for viewing [here](#).

Links to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and its implementing regulation:

- [April 2024 Notice of Final Rule](#) (regulations effective August 1, 2024)
- [34 CFR Part 106](#) (regulations effective May 6, 2020 – July 31, 2024)
- [34 CFR Part 106](#) (regulations effective prior to May 6, 2020)

Office for Civil Rights (OCR)

Page Last Reviewed: September 26, 2024

Related Content

[title vi and title ix religious discrimination in schools and colleges](#)

the office for civil rights enforces several federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance from the department of education.

OCTOBER 3, 2024

guidance on sexual harassment issues

ocr enforces several federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance from the department of education.

OCTOBER 3, 2024

revised sexual harassment guidance

ocr issues a new document (revised guidance) that replaces the 1997 document entitled "sexual harassment guidance: harassment of students by school employees, other students, or third parties", issued march 13, 1997 (1997 guidance).

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